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THE STORYTELLER™
Tale Three of Four
Sirens
ARCHAIA™
SARAH WEBB

One Spared to the Sea

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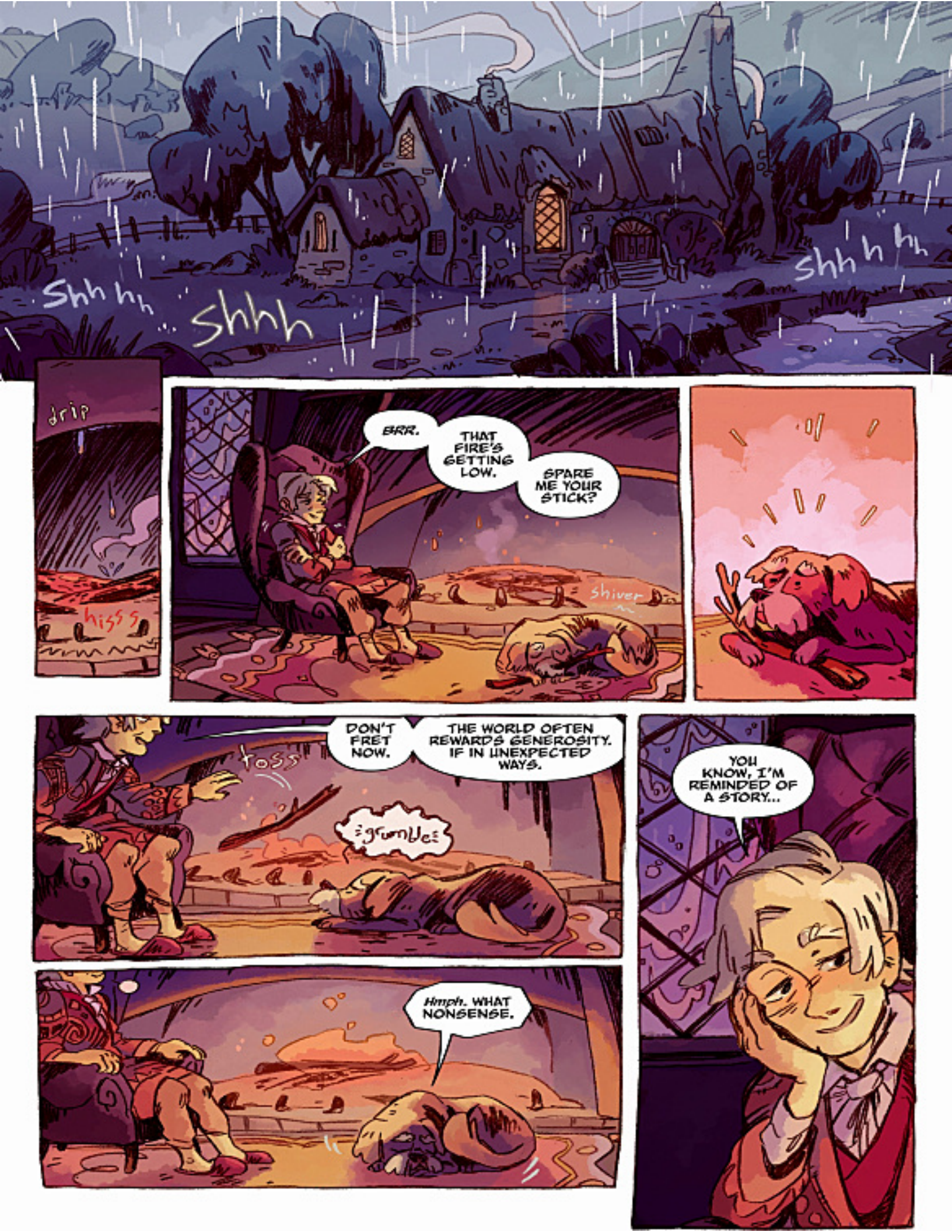
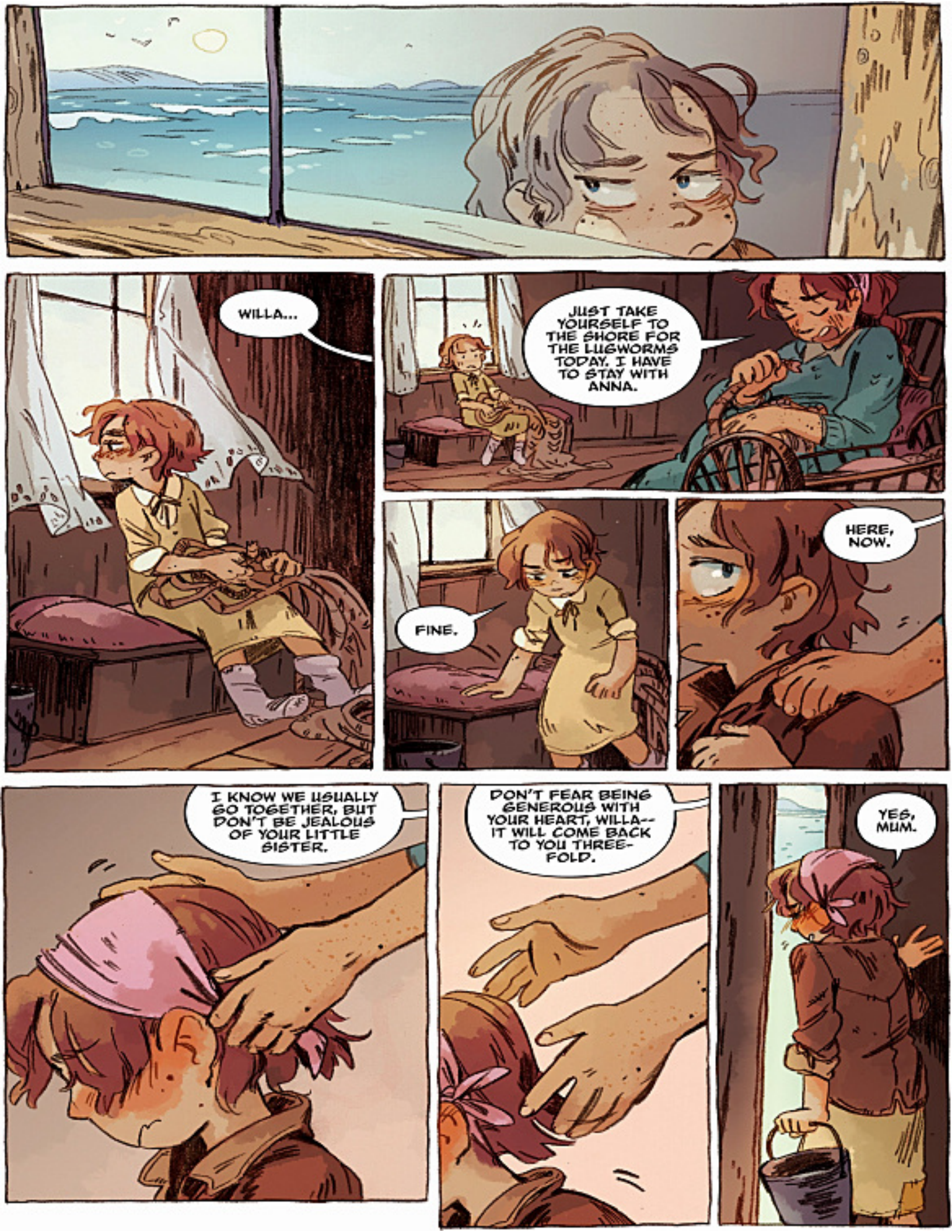
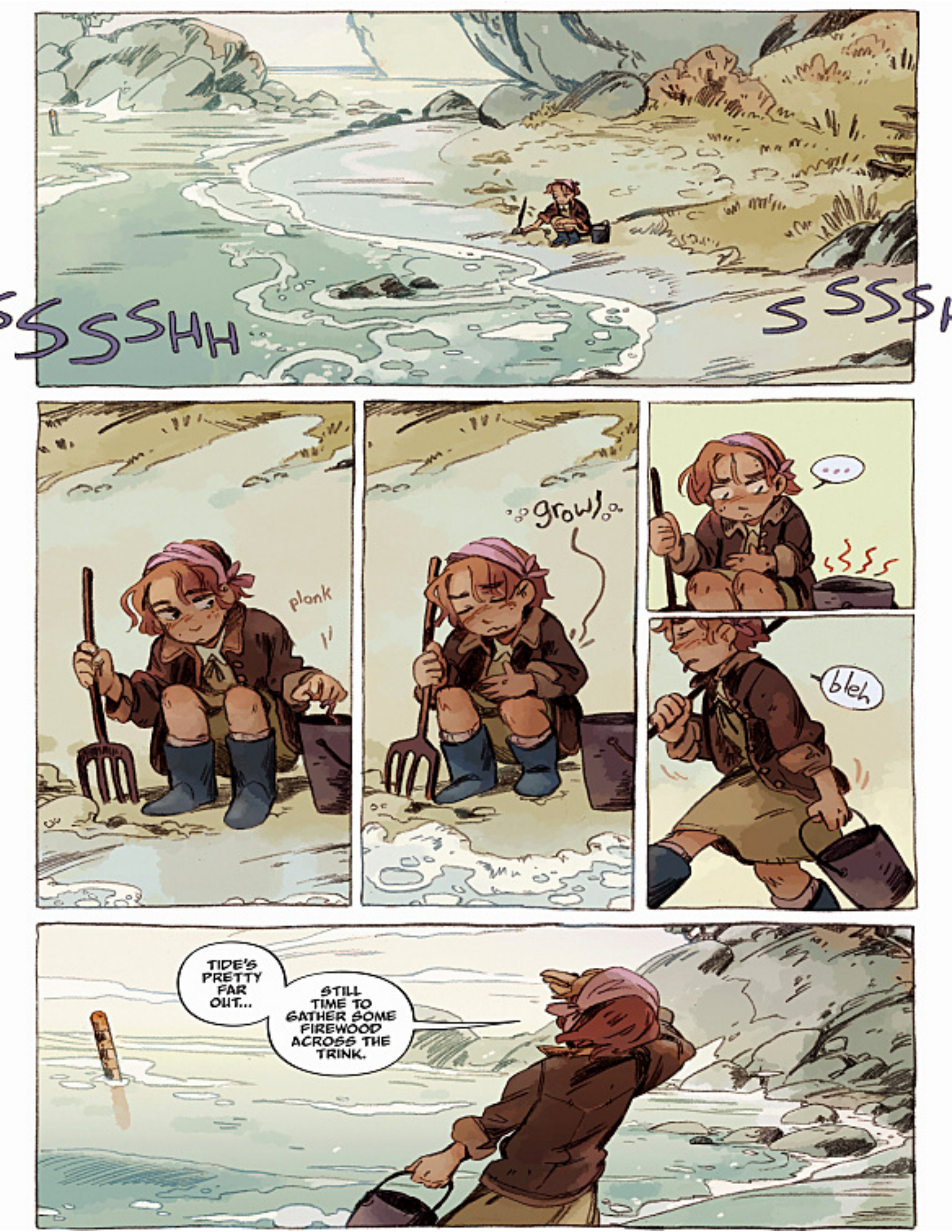
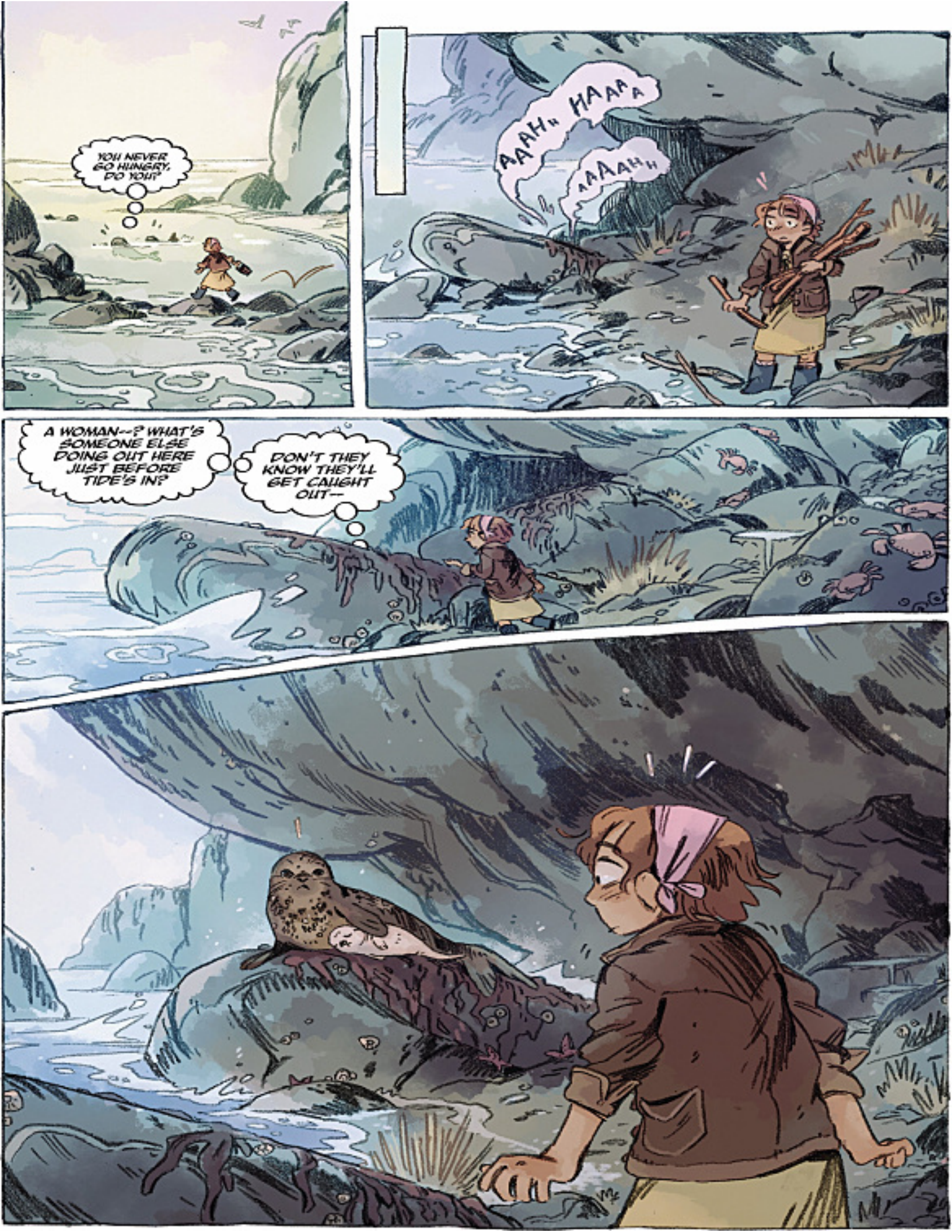
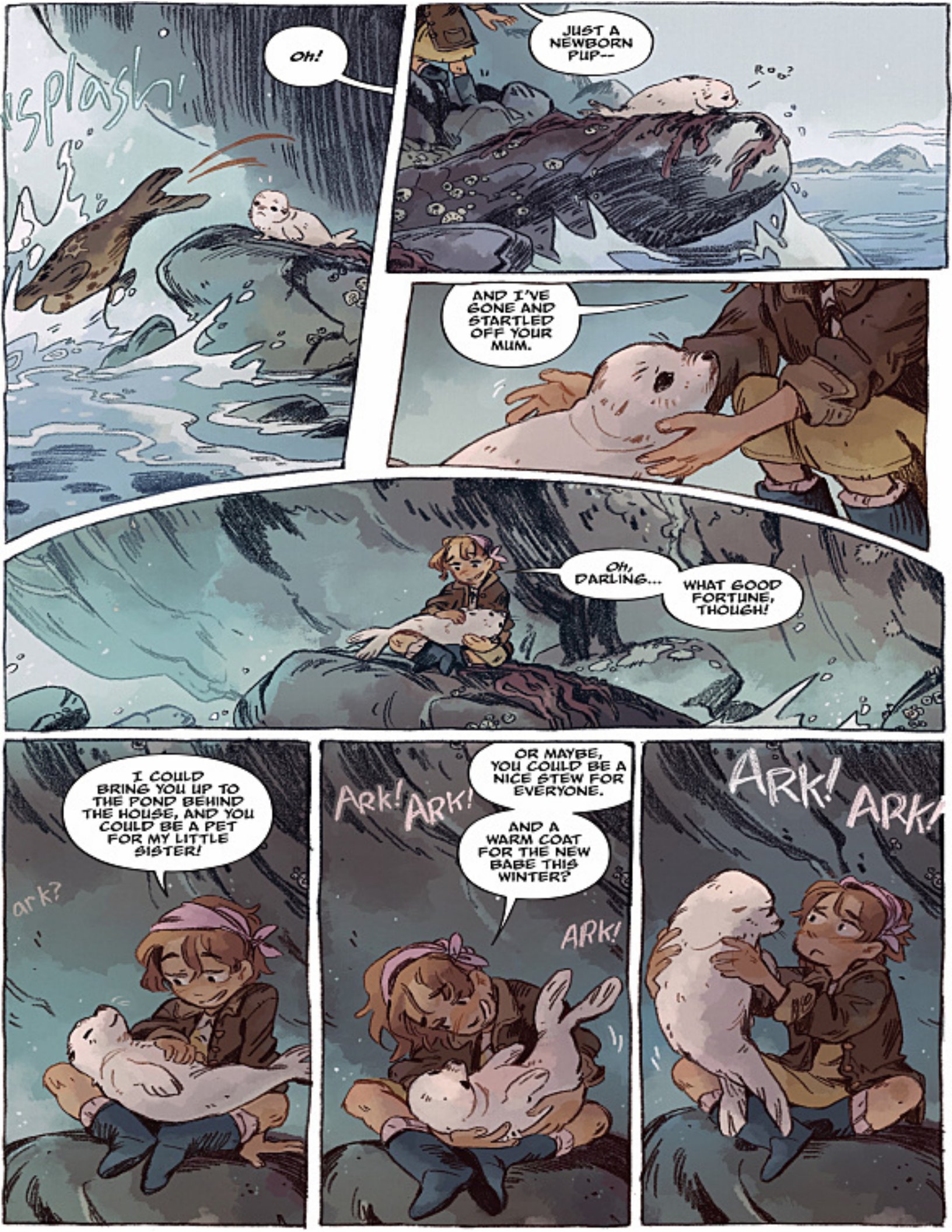

Shh h h
shhh
shh h h
drip
hiss s
BRR.
THAT FIRE'S GETTING LOW.
SPARE ME YOUR STICK?
shiver
DON'T FRET NOW.
THE WORLD OFTEN REWARDS GENEROSITY. IF IN UNEXPECTED WAYS.
toss
grumble
Hmph. WHAT NONSENSE.
YOU KNOW, I'M REMINDED OF A STORY...


WILLA...
JUST TAKE YOURSELF TO THE SHORE FOR THE LUGWORMS TODAY. I HAVE TO STAY WITH ANNA.
FINE.
HERE, NOW.
I KNOW WE USUALLY GO TOGETHER, BUT DON'T BE JEALOUS OF YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
DON'T FEAR BEING GENEROUS WITH YOUR HEART, WILLA-- IT WILL COME BACK TO YOU THREE-FOLD.
YES, MUM.


SSSSHH
SSSSH
plank
grow!
...
bleh
TIDE'S PRETTY FAR OUT...
STILL TIME TO GATHER SOME FIREWOOD ACROSS THE TRINK.

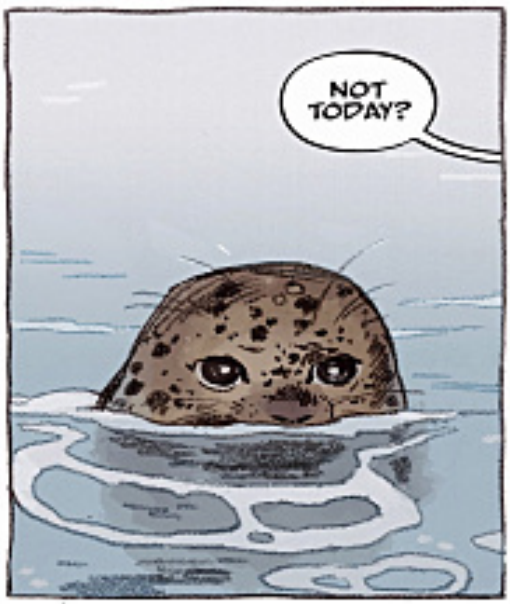

YOU NEVER GO HUNGRY, DO YOU?
AAAH, HAAA
AAAAH
A WOMAN--? WHAT'S SOMEONE ELSE DOING OUT HERE JUST BEFORE TIDE'S IN?
DON'T THEY KNOW THEY'LL GET CAUGHT OUT--


Oh!
Just a newborn pup--
Ro?
And I've gone and startled off your mum.
Oh, darling...
What good fortune, though!
I could bring you up to the pond behind the house, and you could be a pet for my little sister!
ark?
Or maybe, you could be a nice stew for everyone.
And a warm coat for the new babe this winter?
Ark! Ark!
Ark!
Ark! Ark!

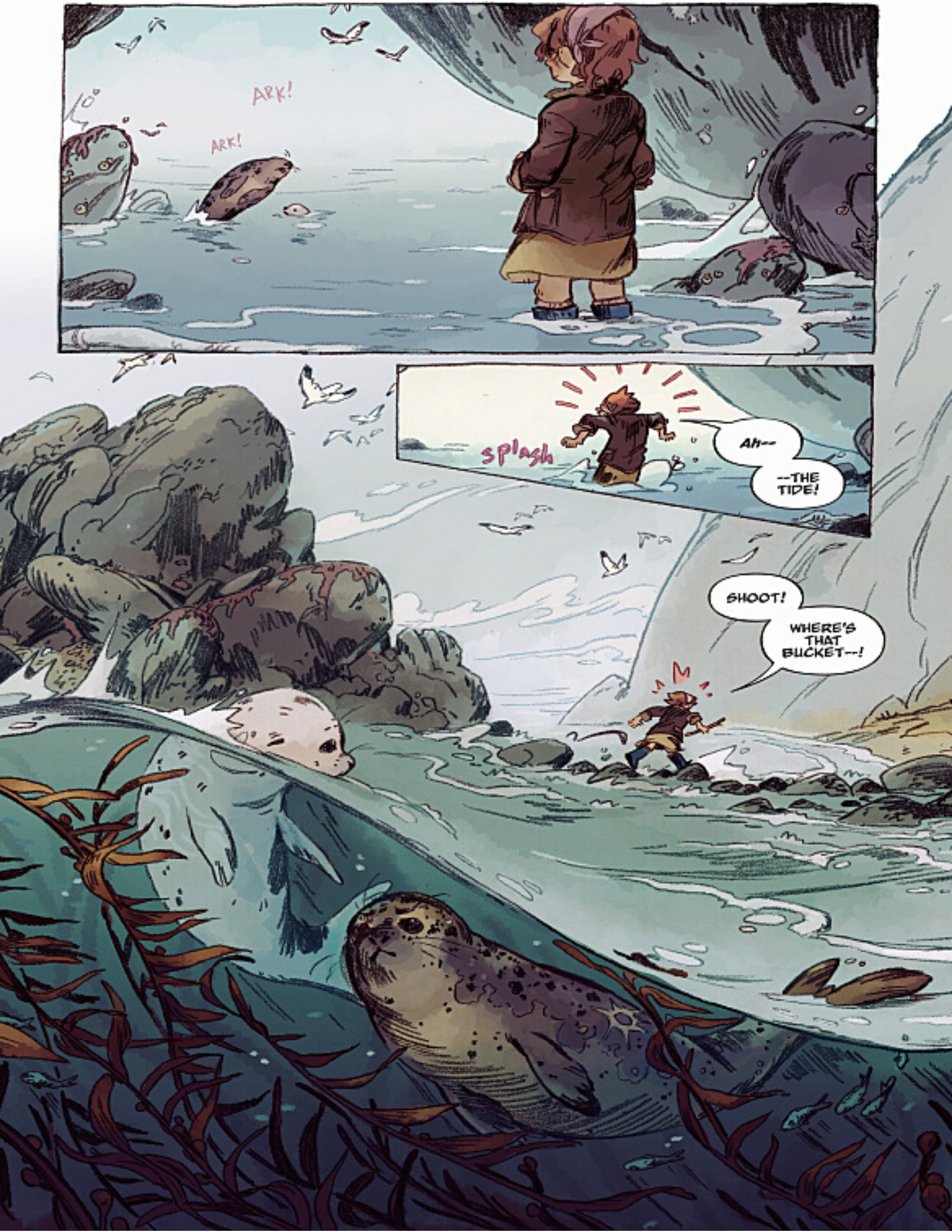
blink

YOUR HEAD'S AS SOFT AS A NEW BABE'S...

WELL...
...WOULD YOU GRANT ME A BOON FOR HER?

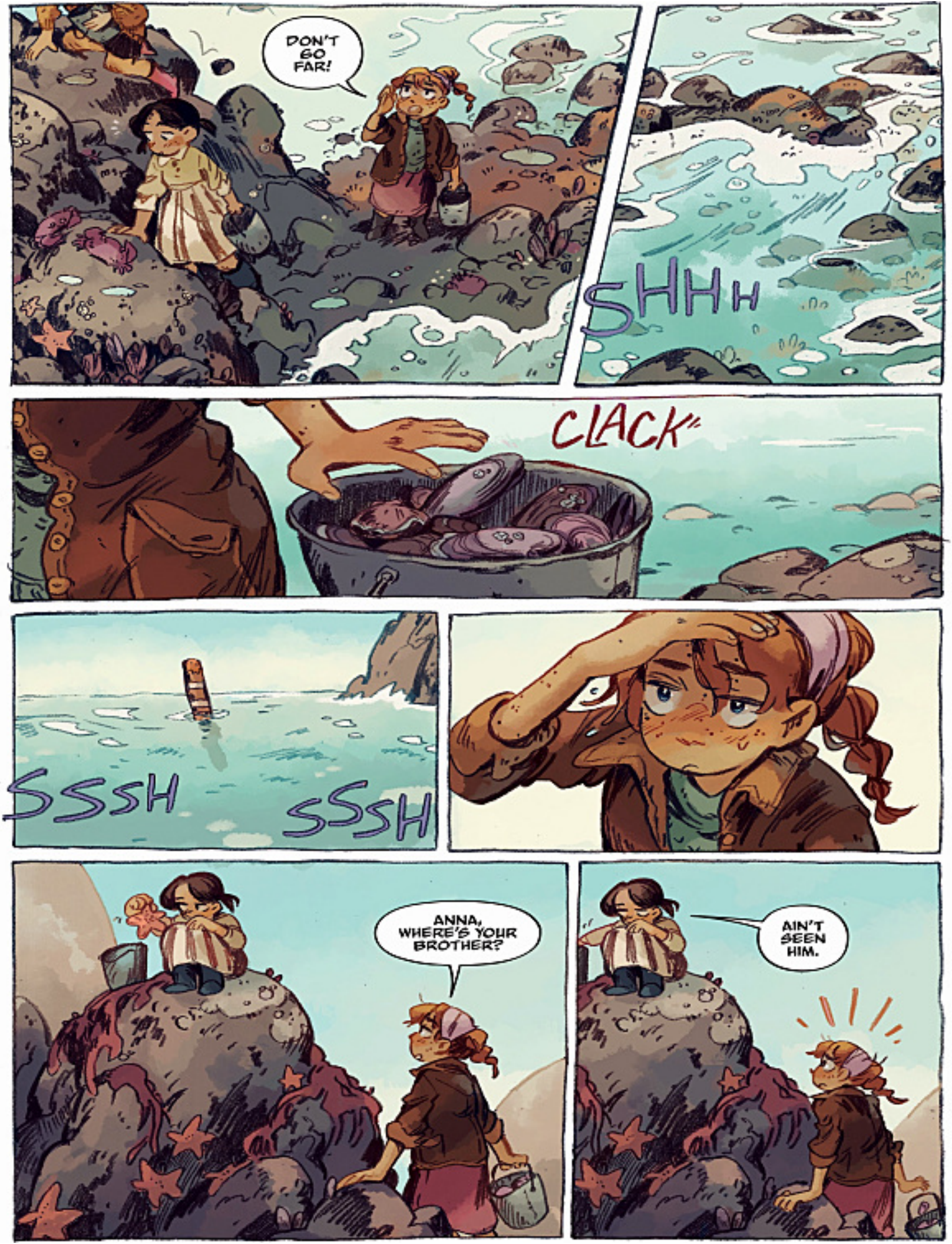

NOT TODAY?

Ah, WELL.


ARK!
ARK!
splash
AH--
--THE TIDE!
SHOOT!
WHERE'S THAT BUCKET--!

nudge
7 Years Later
BUT I NEED TO GATHER COCKLES ACROSS THE TRINK TODAY, MUM.
IF I FINISH BY TIDES UP, BRIN SAID I COULD BORROW THEIR BOAT.
CAN'T I JUST BRING THEM? THEY HAVE TO LEARN EVENTUALLY.

SO, YOU TWO WANT TO GO GATHER THE VERY FINEST COCKLES ON THIS SIDE OF THE ISLAND?
DON'T YOU THREE GET DISTRACTED AND LINGER THERE--
I KNOW, I KNOW--I'LL BE RESPONSIBLE, MUM.
C'MON, WILLA!
NOW, WE'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THAT MARKER OUT THERE, SO WE KNOW WHEN THE TIDE'S TURNED AND WE NEED TO HEAD BACK, RIGHT?
WHEN HIGH TIDE COMES IN, IT'S STRONG AND FAST, AND IT COVERS THE TRINK BEFORE THE ISLAND AS WELL.
SO WE CAN'T STAY TOO LONG HERE.


DON'T GO FAR!
SHHH
CLACK
SSSH
SSSH
ANNA, WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER?
AIN'T SEEN HIM.

BRYCEN?
BRY!
WHAT'S THAT?
ARK ARK!
ARK
ARK!
ARK!
BRY--THANK GOODNESS!

CAN YOU WALK?
OK, I CAN CARRY YOU, BUT WE HAVE TO GET BACK ACROSS--
MY BUCKET!
OK, THAT TOO.
ANNA!
PLISH
UGH.
...WHERE'D THE TRINK GO?

THE TRINK'S RIGHT HERE, JUST A LITTLE WATER OVER IT.
YOU'LL GET WET, BUT THEN WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY HOME TO WARM UP.
C'MON NOW.
Eek!
SSH
SHH
KRASH
WILLA!
IT'S OK!
YOU JUST HAVE TO HOLD TIGHTER--
SHOULD I LEAVE HER AND JUST TAKE BRY ACROSS?

NO! I'M STAYING UP HERE!
ANNABELLE--
THERE'S NOT TIME FOR ME TO CARRY YOU TOO, THE WATER WILL GET TOO HIGH FOR US TO MAKE IT BACK--
"KRASH"
NO, BRY!
ARK!
ARK
ARK!
IF WE STAY HERE, WE'RE ALL GOING TO DROWN!
SHOULD I CROSS BACK WHILE I STILL CAN?
YOU BOTH HAVE TO COME WITH ME, NOW.
ARK
I CAN'T.
PLEASE.
SSSH
SSSH

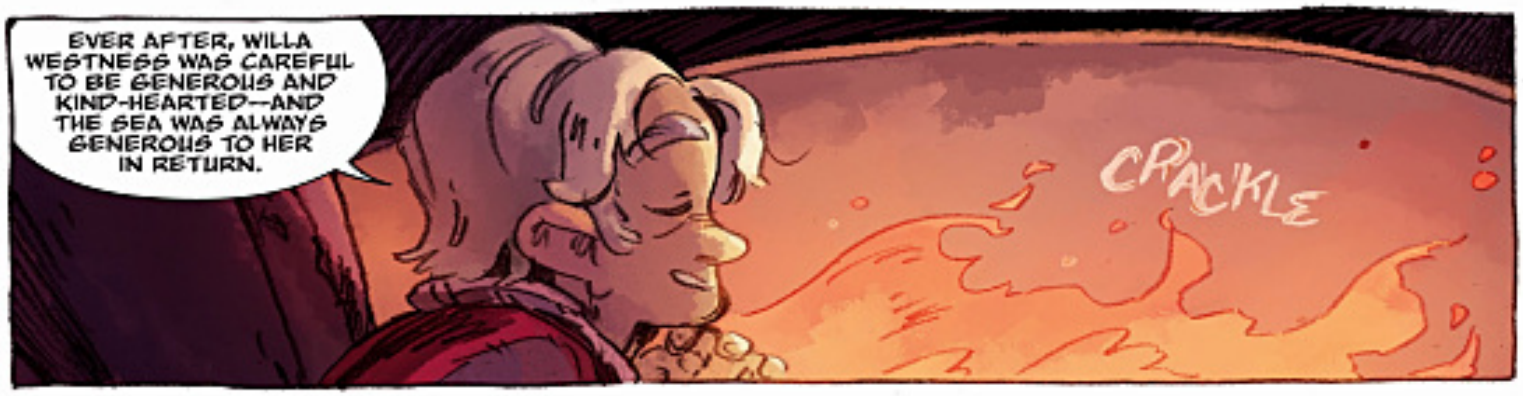
WELL, NO TIME TO WASTE HERE!
BEST GET GOING, eh?

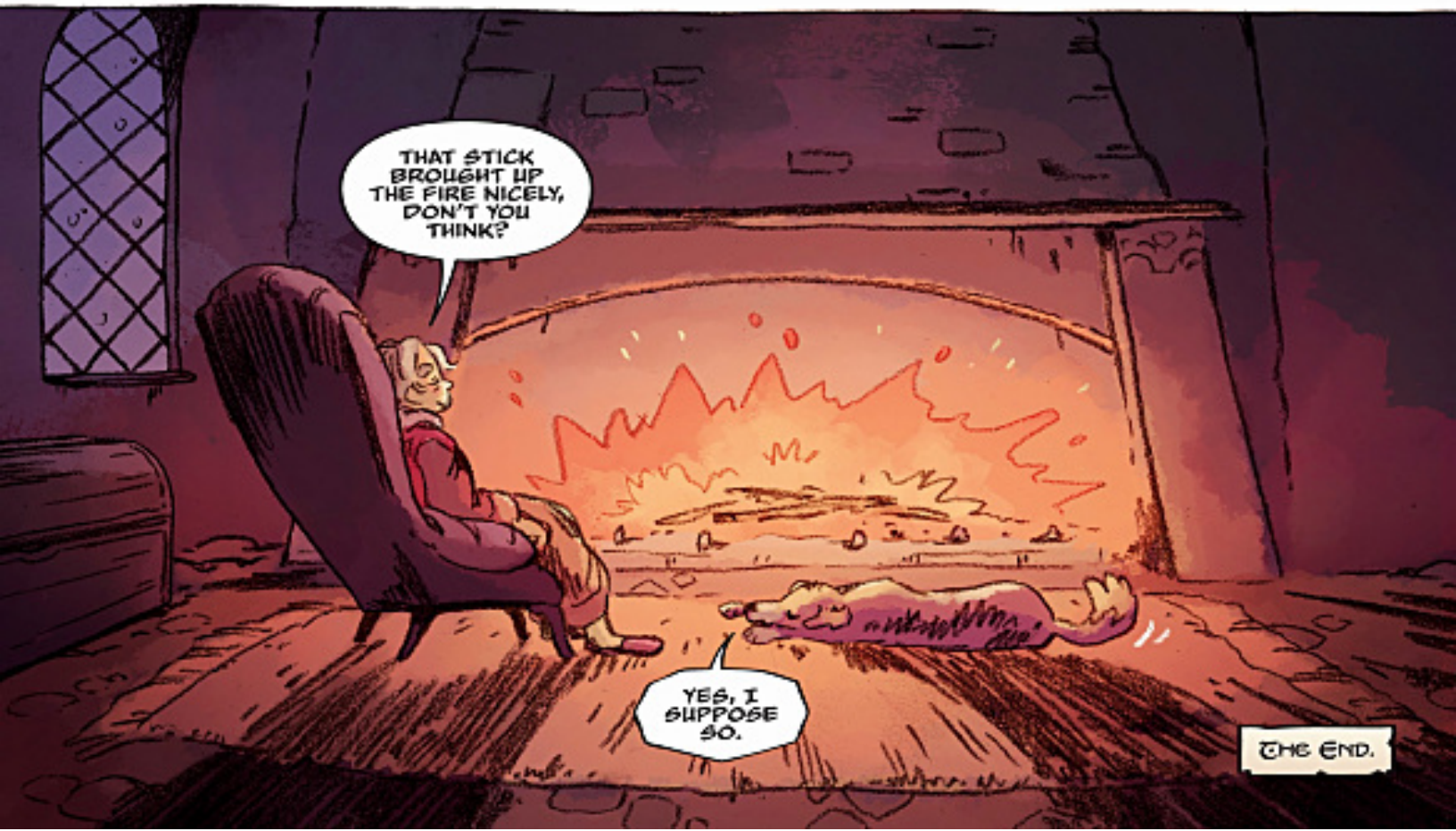
OH, COME ALONG NOW.
NO FEAR-- WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK TO YOUR MOTHER SOON.
WHAT GOOD FORTUNE!

KRASH
SHHH
HERE, WE'RE TALLER--WE'LL LET THE WAVES BREAK AGAINST US INSTEAD.
SHH
KRSSH
DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT YOU.

KRASHH
SHH H
SHH H
K-KRASH
SHH H
SHHHH
SHHHH
SHH H H
SHAKE!
THERE WE ARE!

ALL'S WELL, THEN.
NOW REMEMBER, AND TELL ALL YOUR FAMILY— ONE SPARED TO THE SEA IS THREE SPARED TO THE LAND.
BETTER GET THEM HOME BEFORE THEY CATCH COLD.
I'M SURE I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN AT SEA, WILLA WESTNESS.
OFF WITH YOU NOW!
C'MON, WILLA.
RIGHT, RIGHT!


EVER AFTER, WILLA WESTNESS WAS CAREFUL TO BE GENEROUS AND KIND-HEARTED--AND THE SEA WAS ALWAYS GENEROUS TO HER IN RETURN.
CRACKLE


THAT STICK BROUGHT UP THE FIRE NICELY, DON'T YOU THINK?
YES, I SUPPOSE SO.
THE END.

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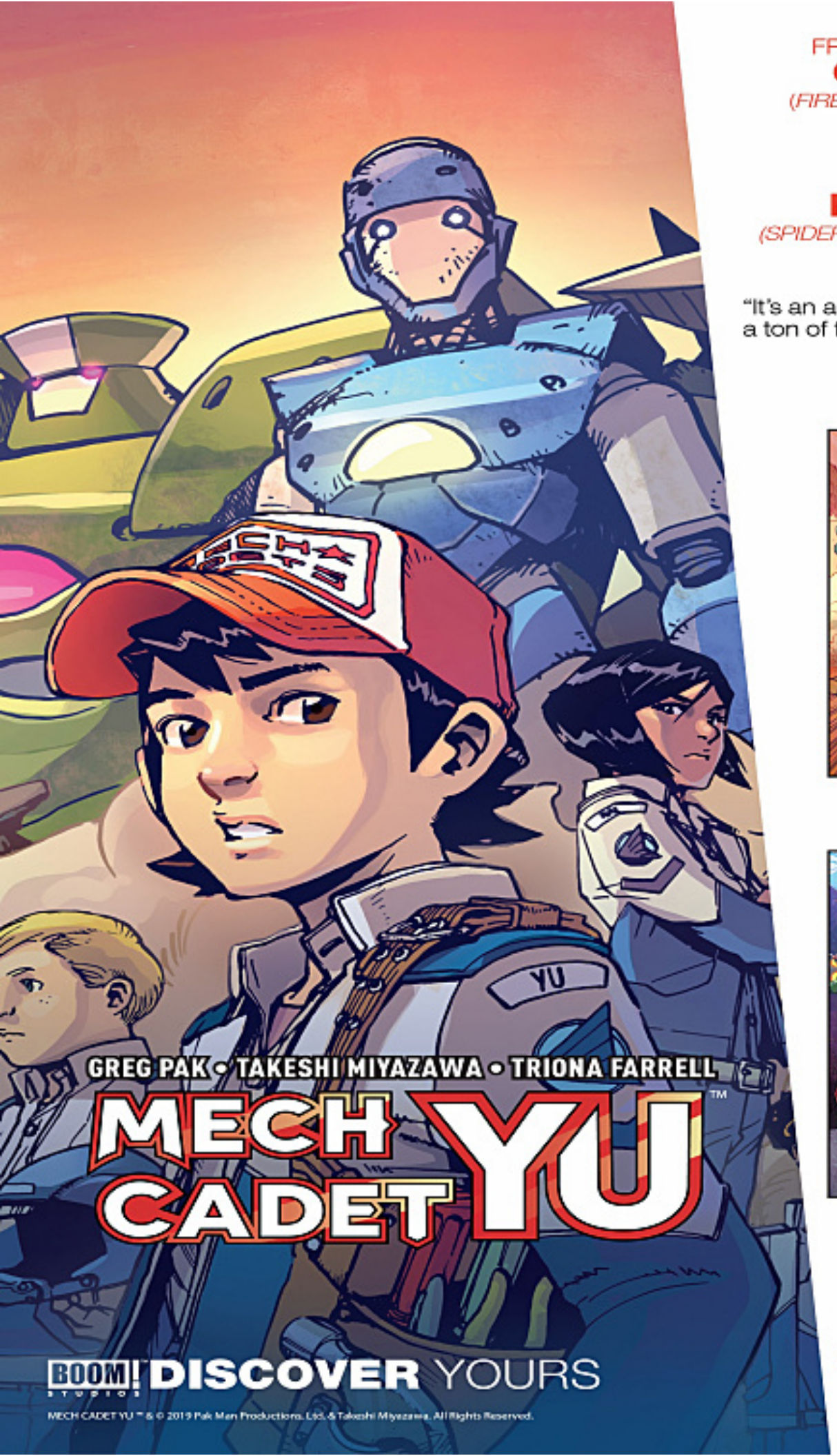

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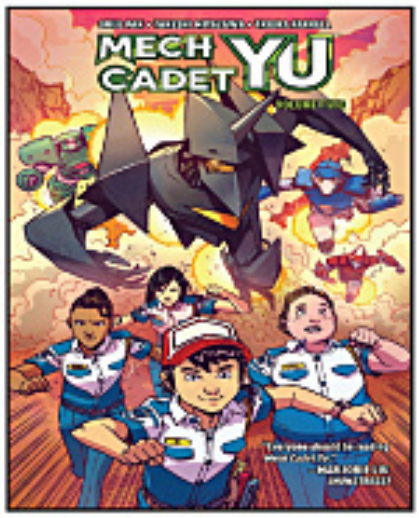

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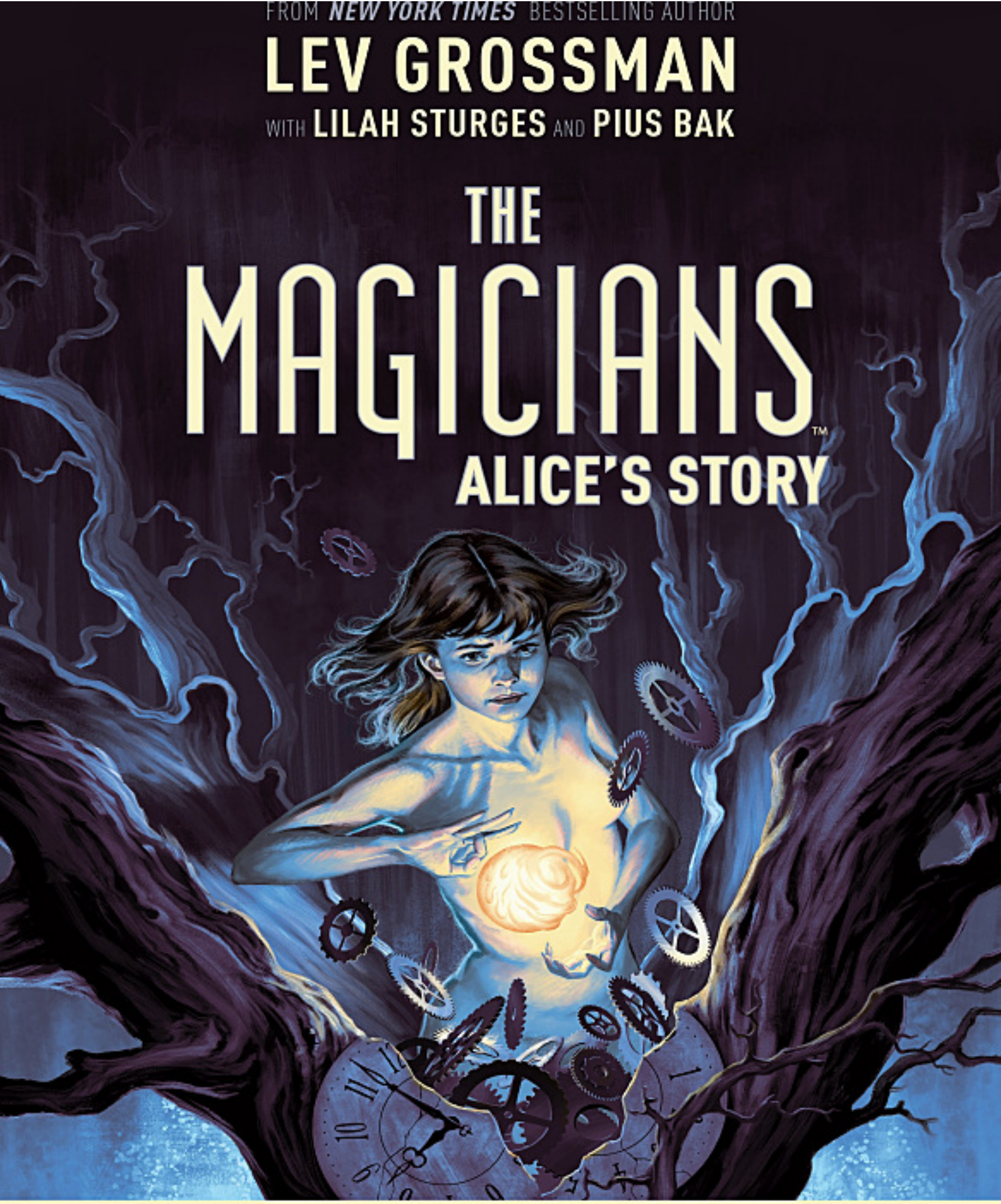

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